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International Activities of NAL

U.S./Central and Eastern European Agricultural Library Roundtable Initiative Continues to Pave the Way to Increased Cooperation

by Maria G. Pisa
Assistant Director for Policy and Planning, NAL

NAL staff will participate in the fourth U.S./Central and Eastern European Agricultural Library Roundtable later this month [September 1994], in Nitra, Slovakia, as part of its ongoing initiative to build information exchange relationships with the agricultural libraries in the former Communist bloc. The following is a report of the third Roundtable.

The Institute of Plant Breeding and Acclimatization in Radzików, Poland, was the venue for the third U.S./Central and Eastern European Agricultural Library Roundtable held September 21-24, 1993. The third Roundtable was hosted by the Central Agricultural Library in Warsaw under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Agriculture of Poland with a grant from VTLS, Inc. The theme of the Roundtable, *Networking Agricultural Information: Next Steps*, focused on assessing the present situation with respect to linking agricultural information resources through technology in Central and Eastern Europe and exploring future possibilities for increasing connectivity.

(See **ROUNDTABLE** on page 2.)

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Inter-American Cooperation Is Focus of International Workshop on Agricultural Information

by Maria G. Pisa*
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(* This article is derived from 3 documents listed at the end as References. See page 15.)

The final report of the *Inter-American Planning Workshop for Agricultural Information Transfer and Networking* held in January has been recently completed. The report identifies an agenda for action aimed at increasing opportunities for Inter-American cooperation in library networking, technology exchange and human and institutional resource development. The Workshop was an effort to begin to design a sustainable and progressive infrastructure for Inter-American agricultural information exchange and reverse the trend of seriously diminished resources that has characterized the agricultural information sector in Latin America and the Caribbean since the early 1980's.

The Workshop brought together key leaders in the information community from a cross-section of the Americas as well as representatives from major international agricultural information and donor organizations. Their charge was to produce an outline of a regional plan for agricultural infrastructure development. The Workshop itself was structured around consideration of a draft outline prepared by international library consultant and Workshop facilitator, Jane Kinney Meyers. Production of the final outline was accomplished by participants in working sessions facilitated by resources persons.

(See **INTER-AMERICAN**, on page 11)

(ROUNDTABLE, from page 1)

Welcoming New Participants

The number of participating countries has expanded from six to fourteen nations since 1991, the first year the Roundtable was held. Joining the Roundtable for the first time in Radzików were participants from Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine. A second library of the Czech Republic also joined the initiative. Their papers featured a description of the agricultural library and information system in their respective countries as well as the identification of key issues facing the library and agricultural sector and prospects for development and cooperation. They are abstracted below:

Belarus. Belarus Agricultural Library, Minsk.

Mr. Vladimir Golubev, Director; Ms. Wiera Koszel, Librarian.

Established in 1960, the Belarus Agricultural Library is the central agricultural library in the Republic of Belarus. The library collection consists of approximately 550,000 books and monographs and is managed by a staff of 50 information specialists. The main issues facing the library are: 1) the negative effect of the economic crisis on library operations; 2) the lack of hard currency for purchase of foreign materials and databases; 3) Belarus is not a member of FAO and the library is not a member of AGRIS although the library has begun negotiations with FAO; and 4) publications exchange arrangements with libraries in Europe and the USA are weak and need to be strengthened. With regard to exchange, the library can offer about 50 books on agriculture annually as well as the proceedings of the Belarus Agricultural Sciences and Research Institutes.

Russia. Central Scientific Agricultural Library (CSAL), Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow.

Ms. Nina Abbakumowa, Scientific Secretary; Ms. Marina Basanowa, Librarian.

Scientific libraries of the Russian Federation, including those servicing

the agricultural sector are in the process of transitioning to new economic methods and, as such, find themselves at the mercy of market forces. For CSAL, one of the three largest scientific agricultural libraries in the Russian Federation this has meant, among other things, a chronic shortage of State appropriations for the purchase of literature and equipment. At present CSAL's international book exchange program, conducted since 1935, is the main source of acquisition of foreign literature. CSAL was founded in 1930 and serves as a designated information agency of Russia and the coordinating center of scientific agricultural libraries for the CIS countries and Russia. The library is responsible for compiling bibliographic entries of Russian agriculture and, since 1991, has been a Research Institute for Library and Bibliographic Sciences. The library collection consists of over 3.5 million copies, and 40 percent of the collection is foreign literature in 32 languages. CSAL has a staff of 242 people, 70 percent of whom are professionals.

Ukraine. Republic Scientific Agricultural Library, Kiev.

Mr. Romuald Tselinsky, Director; Ms. Irina Denisenko, Deputy Director.

The Republic Scientific Agricultural Library of the Ukrainian Academy of Agricultural Sciences (RSAL UAAS) together with 310 libraries of the scientific research institutes, universities, experiment stations, and colleges form the country's agricultural information system. Founded in 1921, RSAL is now one of the largest scientific libraries in Ukraine with a collection of one million documents on agriculture and applied sciences. It is also the interlibrary loan center, book depository, and the center for agricultural bibliography and methodology. The library's information and bibliographic activities are diverse and include: publication of current and topical bibliographies, arrangement of book exhibitions, organization of Specialists' Information Days, and the preparation of book reviews. RSAL UAAS is also participating in the development of the Computer Information System for Agrosience. This

database will serve the information needs of all institutes and experiment stations.

Czech Republic. Central Food Library (CFL), Prague.

Dr. Jana Skládálová, Director.

The library is working to become part of the evolving Czech and Slovak Library and Information Network together with the Czech National Library and the Central Agricultural and Forestry Library. To achieve full operating activity the CFL will require some additional funding for materials and automation equipment, plus skilled librarians with language knowledge. [Following this meeting, Skládálová spent two months in the U.S. as a Cochran Fellow. See pages 24-27 of this issue of *ALIN*.]

Participant Updates

Albania. Scientific Library of the Agricultural University, Tirana.

Mrs. Heroína Deliu, Bibliographer.

Information activities at the library continue to be severely limited because of ongoing economic hardships. For the past three years there has been no funding available for the purchase of foreign books and periodicals. Despite these difficulties staff remain optimistic that the increasing contacts with colleagues in other countries will have a positive effect.

Czech Republic. Central Agricultural and Forestry Library, Prague.

Dr. Ivo Hoch, Director.

Two events, the division of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and the disestablishment of the Institute for Scientific and Technical Information for Agriculture, have resulted in decreased funding and reduced staff for the library. However, the Library is responding by exploring cooperative arrangements with other libraries in order to maintain service levels. The installation of a NOVELL network for library applications has slowed but is continuing.

(See ROUNDTABLE, page 4)



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Vladimir Golubev



Wiera Koszel



Ivo Hoch



Jana Skládaloová



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Third U.S./
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Agricultural Library Roundtable
September 21-24, 1993
Radzików, Poland

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(ROUNDTABLE, from page 2)

Estonia. Agricultural Library, Estonian Agricultural University, Tartu.

Mrs. Aino Kriegerberg, Deputy Director.

Plans are underway to begin compilation of a bibliography containing the publications of all agricultural scientists in Estonia. The library was designated the FAO Center of Estonia and connected with the AGRIS and CARIS systems. Information is presently being transmitted to FAO manually; however, staff hope to have the necessary automation equipment in place by the end of the year.

Hungary. National Agricultural Library, Budapest.

Mr. Frigycs Seresi, Section Head; and Mr. László Szalay, Librarian.

The library became an independent entity within the Ministry of Agriculture. A new Director, Mrs. Erika Gulácsi, who had been serving as acting director, was appointed. Earlier in the year the library organized and held a CD-ROM workshop for Roundtable participants. The library continued efforts to locate funds for the development of an integrated library system and were recently informed that the World Bank will grant a loan to the Hungarian government for the development of the information infrastructure of the Hungarian universities and major libraries. As part of that effort staff were asked to supply a list of the most important books which they were not able to purchase in the last 3-4 years.

Latvia. Fundamental Library, Latvian University of Agriculture, Jelgava.

Mrs. Ilona Dobelniece, Deputy Director.

Extensive changes in the agricultural education and training system will effect all aspects of the library's operations and services. The state of flux coupled with very limited resources has hampered short and long term plan-

ning efforts especially as they relate to the development of the Latvian agricultural information system. However, an agricultural consultation service headquartered in Jelgava has been established and provides computer connectivity with all regions of Latvia. The library is exploring connectivity to the network.

Lithuania. Lithuanian Agricultural Library, Vilnius.

Ms. Renata Niaurienė, Director.

Planning efforts are underway for automating the library, as part of an initiative with nine other scientific institutes of agriculture in Lithuania that are seeking ways of meeting the increasing demand for access to databases by scientists. The library has joined FAO and become a National Center for AGRIS and CARIS. Funds permitting, the library hopes to hire a computer specialist and organize training courses for librarians.

Poland. Central Agricultural Library (CAL), Warsaw.

Dr. Jerzy Rasinski, Director.

The library was instrumental in leading a national effort that resulted in the formation of the Polish Agricultural Library Network. This network will have the potential to provide access to resources of major agricultural university libraries and research institutes containing over two million volumes and several thousand current serials in a single integrated library system. Following extensive analysis of integrated library systems by CAL, agreement was reached by network participants to pursue acquisition of the VTLS system. A grant proposal is in preparation.

Romania. Banat's University of Agricultural Sciences Library, Timisoara.

Ms. Laura Demetrovici, Director.

The library joined forces with three other major university libraries in Timisoara to collaborate in the development and acquisition of an online library system, a common e-mail system, and pursue a cooperative collec-

tion development strategy. The joint effort has thus far resulted in the creation of a shared automation lab and the organization of the **Second National Information Week in Romania—Info '93.**

Romania. University of Agricultural Sciences Library, Cluj-Napoca.

Ms. Letitia Goia, Director.

The library has redesigned its reading room to provide open access to collections, and some modest equipment purchases have been made. The renewed freedom to travel and study abroad has contributed to building expertise in modern library methods although extremely limited resources preclude many projects from getting underway. Library staff participated in the UNIMARC workshop held in Bucharest and expect to participate in the Fourth Annual Meeting of the Romanian Education Libraries Association.

Slovak Republic. Institute of Scientific and Technical Information for Agriculture (ISTIA), Nitra.

Dr. Andrejka Svorenová, Head of Library and Information Services, and Mr. Michael Demes, Director, ISTIA.

Following the division of the Czech-Slovak Federal Republic, ISTIA was reestablished as a specialized information institute for the agricultural sector of the Slovak Republic and its mission was broadened. It now functions as an AGRIS/FAO National Center and as the depository library of FAO in the Slovak Republic; the center for these activities is in Bratislava. Intensive automation of library operations has been ongoing since January 1992, including a project to connect information centers at six research institutes electronically. Technology-based collection building is a priority at ISTIA Nitra, and the library is working with Cornell's Mann Library to acquire *The Core Literature of the Agricultural Sciences* CD-ROMs. [Following this meeting, Svorenová spent two months in the U.S. as a Cochran Fellow. See pages 24-27 of this issue of *ALIN*.]

(See ROUNDTABLE, page 6)

U.S./Central & Eastern European Agricultural Library Roundtable

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(ROUNDTABLE, from page 6)

Slovenia. Central Biotechnical Library, University of Ljubljana.

Mrs. Jana Bradac, Director, and Mr. Tomaz Bartol, Head of Inf/INDOC Activities.

An integrated information system of Slovenia is being established. The Biotechnical Faculty's libraries are playing a key role in development of the system by supplying data and educating users. An immediate priority is to establish an effective online system which will enable integrated access to all existing computer catalogs and bibliographies. The library is also considering strategies for beginning to extend its information services to agricultural producers via several online services.

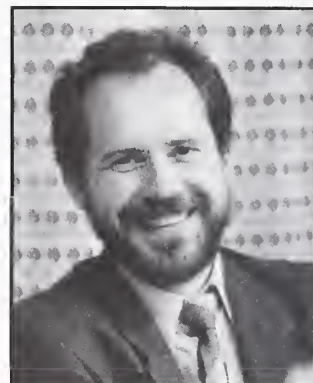
NAL Supporting Role

The U.S. National Agricultural Library is continuing to serve as a coordinator and facilitator in advancing and promoting the collective and individual needs of participant countries of the roundtable initiative. To this end, NAL was able to realize some modest successes in 1993. A Surplus Books and Journals Program was launched with assistance from FAO and USDA's Agricultural Research Service and Office of International Cooperation and Development (see "NAL Ships Surplus Materials to Central Europe" in the April-June 1994 issue of *ALIN*, Vol 20, Nos.4-6, pp. 7-8). Under this program over 300 boxes of materials have been shipped to participating libraries.

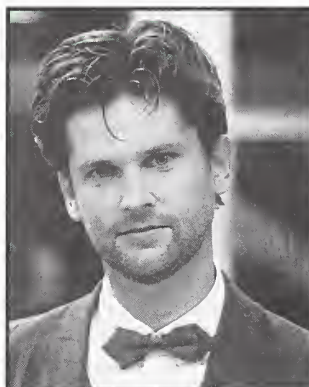
Funds were also awarded under the Cochran Fellowship program to support two library internships at NAL (see related articles in this issue of *ALIN*, pages 24-27). And, finally, the National Agricultural Library was successful in securing grants funds to install CD-ROM workstations at each of the Baltic participant institutions and provide training.



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photo: J. Swab

Romuald Tselinsky signing the roundtable cooperative agreement for Ukraine and Joseph Howard for the United States. Representatives of all libraries participating in the roundtable have signed the cooperative agreement.

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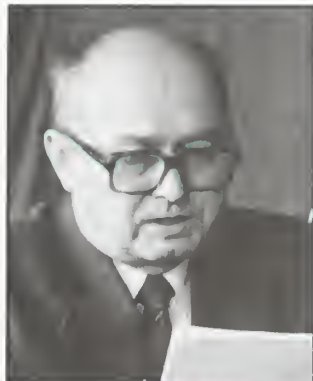
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(Right) The bookplate for the Central Agricultural Library of Poland



The Central Agricultural Library of Poland

(Adapted from the brochure, *Central Agricultural Library, Poland*, Warsaw, 1993, by Krystyna Kocznorowska.)

The Central Agricultural Library (CAL) with its two branches in Pulawy and Bydgoszcz was founded in 1955. The library holdings date back to the 19th century; their history is tied to the history of both CAL branches and agricultural libraries in general.

The first research agricultural library was established at the Institute of Agronomy in Marymont, which was founded in 1816. In 1862, the library holdings were re-located to Pulawy, to be included in the library of the agricultural university. In 1918, after Poland had reached independence, library holdings were transferred to the State Research Institute of Farming in Pulawy. The majority of library holdings contained "rossica," i.e., were written in Russian. During WWII the library collections were mostly destroyed. In 1955, the remainder of the collections was included in the Pulawy branch of CAL.

The Institute of Agriculture was founded in Bydgoszcz at the beginning of the 20th century. At that time the library collections also were estab-

lished. During WWII the library holdings of the Institute were partially destroyed. In 1955, the collection was transferred to the Bydgoszcz branch. Publications in German, called "germanica," constitute a valuable part of the library holdings.

Today, the library collections consist of 430,000 monographs, periodicals, and special collections covering agriculture, forestry, food technology, and allied disciplines. CAL currently receives about 2,000 periodicals and adds approximately 6,000 volumes to the collection annually. The exchange of scientific publications with 600 foreign institutions in 80 countries is a valuable source of the library's materials.

A computerized database called SIGZ (National Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Food Management) is produced by the CAL and a network of cooperating subnational centers. The SIGZ database contains bibliographic citations and abstracts of Polish agricultural literature from 1981-1991 and foreign publications covering 1984-1991. The database contains 150,000 records and is currently being updated.

CAL prepares several publications including: *Current Information for the Management of the Ministry of Agricul-*

ture and Food Economy (weekly); *Agricultural News Bulletin* (biweekly); *Polish Bibliography of Food Economy* (SIGZ monthly bibliography); *Science-practical methods of crop and animal husbandry, bulletin for advisory officers* (irregular); and the *National Agricultural Bibliography* (irregular).

Dr. Jerzy Rasinski has been Director of the Central Agricultural Library in Warsaw since 1977. Before becoming director of CAL he was the agricultural attaché of the Polish Embassy in Washington, DC., from 1973-1976. He also served as the director and chief editor of the State Publishing House for Agriculture and Forestry Publications from 1964 until 1973 and worked at the Research Institute of Agricultural Economics in Warsaw from 1956-1963. Dr. Rasinski holds a masters degree in agricultural engineering with a specialization in food processing and doctorate in agricultural economics. During the course of his career he has published over 50 articles in various Polish scientific and professional journals and is also the author of six books. He is a member of the Scientific Council of the Information Center of the Polish Academy of Sciences.



Dr. Jan Bojanowski (with cap), corn breeder, takes the roundtable participants on a tour of the Institute of Plant Breeding and Acclimatization.

All photos in this article are by
Keith Russell
unless otherwise indicated.



Dr. Jan Bojanowski (with cap) leads tour of corn experimental plots.



Jana Bradac and Joe Howard dancing after the farewell banquet and reception.



Roundtable participants at the farewell reception .

Inter-American Workshop on Agricultural Information

The Workshop was hosted by the National Agricultural Library and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in cooperation with the Inter-American Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists (AIBDA), the Associates of the National Agricultural Library, and the United States Agricultural Information Network (USAIN). The Workshop was made possible through the support of these organizations and through a generous grant from the USDA Office of International Cooperation and Development (OICD).

The Report

The final Report of the Workshop, *Regional Plan for the Establishment of an Inter-American Agricultural Information Network: Report of the Inter-American Planning Workshop for Information Transfer and Networking*, represents a consensus reached on the identification of priority areas to address in improving access to agricultural information in the Americas. The Regional Plan is presented in four sections which represent the areas of analysis by workgroups. A summary of the Workshop recommendations follows:

■ Policies & Infrastructure for Regional Networking.

Strategy: Strengthen national and regional agricultural infrastructure by focusing on integration and institutional capacity building. Propose sustainable networking approaches and regional information systems.



photo: J. Swab

Jane Kinney Meyers (left) introduces Susan Benson, who discussed opportunities and challenges in the Latin American information infrastructure.

Recommendations:

- Creation of an Inter-American Agricultural Information Network as the basic infrastructure to generate and promote the development of agricultural information services and systems. The network should incorporate the national systems of agricultural information, such as universities, governmental systems, non-governmental organizations (NGO's), the private sector, and regional information systems. A steering committee should be given responsibility for: establishing guidelines for developing a sustainable network; designing priority proposals at the national and regional levels; and acting as liaison with governmental and donor agencies to secure start-up funding.
- A key topic of analysis should be the identification of the those conditions that assure the sustainability of informa-



photo: J. Swab

A panel of experts discusses "Perspectives on Funding: The Role of Donor Organizations." (L-R) Ezequiel Machado, Malcolm Bale, Marcos Kisil, Blas Santos, and Elizabeth Mayhew.

tion systems. Research on the development of *criteria for sustainability* from which network information projects will be evaluated is recommended.

- National and regional information systems should be active participants in science research networks. This will lead to mutual understanding and improve opportunities for improving the flow of scientific information.
- Donors, international agencies and the information community should join in public awareness efforts directed at making decision-makers and national authorities better informed of: the role of information in agricultural development; the conditions for sustainability of information collections, systems, and services; and the benefits of collaboration to take full advantage of emerging information technologies that have the potential for sharing resources. Encourage the development of national and institutional policies where appropriate.
- Considering the heterogeneous nature of users of agricultural information, and of the information they require, an in-depth needs assessment should be undertaken. Innovative strategies and use of technologies for reaching non-research information users should be explored,

evaluated.

- Professional associations should take an active role in infrastructure development by: developing standards for library and information management that can guide investments of the private and public sectors; helping to promote growth of the information industry in the region by identifying needed products and services; and targeting public awareness programs to make the value of information to national economic development more widely known.

Human Resources and Training

Strategy: Professional library and information associations can play a key role in building capacity through the promotion of productive professional contacts and raising professional standards. Focused educational and training programs enable the information community to adapt to expanding demands and to a changing technological environment.

Recommendations:

- Library and information science programs in colleges and universities should be strengthened, their curricula upgraded, and their number increased. The establishment of post-graduate programs is crucial. Instructional methods, including



photo: J. Swab

Suzana Sperry

President, Inter-American Association of Agriculture Librarians and Documentalists (AIBDA).

distance learning should be explored.

- Develop a range of specialized skills in the agricultural information community through continuing education and training courses. Expertise is needed in several critical areas including: design and management of databases, networks, and technologies; needs assessment, evaluation and research methodologies; marketing; and proposal writing.



photo: J. Swab

A panel of international experts discusses alliances, partnerships, organizations, and services. (L-R) Emile Samaha, Victor Desroches, Jane Kinney Meyers (facilitator), Stella Dextre Clarke, and John R. Metcalfe.



photo: J. Swab

Piedad Montaña de Mayolo

Past President, Inter-American Association of Agriculture Librarians and Documentalists (AIBDA).

- Establish exchange and in-service training programs in local and international institutions as well as in permanent regional training centers for the continuing development of information professionals and

paraprofessionals. Develop norms and criteria for certification and accreditation of educational programs and specialized courses in the area of information.

- Encourage and finance research in the development of innovative programs and technologies particularly in the development of mechanisms to integrate agricultural information effectively within the cycle of agricultural development, ranging through farmer, extension, research, planning, and policy levels.
- Increase the number of users trained in information retrieval skills through the development of a high-quality modular training package that develops competencies required for accessing agricultural information.
- Strengthen regional and national professional associations in order to increase productive and continuous professional interaction among the agricultural information community.

- Establish a **Regional Information Technology Program** to coordinate training activities of the network and to promote educational information programs. Produce a database, available over the Internet, to facilitate the coordination, diffusion, and follow-up of educational activities.

■ **Information Technology, Automation and Telecommunications**

Strategy: Promotion of networking cooperative systems, and resource sharing through the use of appropriate information technology to facilitate economic, expedient, and equitable use of agricultural information.

Recommendations:

- National systems of agricultural information should be strengthened to benefit from new information technologies. Serious institutional, governmental, and donor support is needed to assure the sustainability of automated systems and information technology developments in the region.

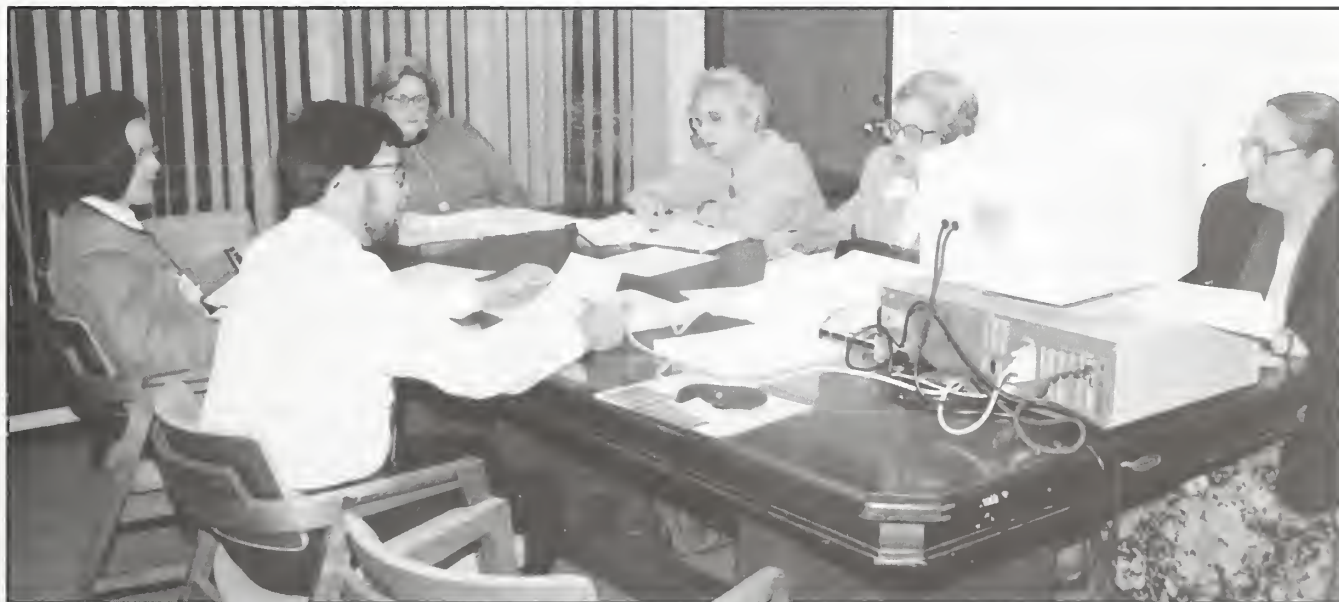


photo: J. Swab

The working group on Policy and Infrastructure, led by Idalia Acosta (2nd from right), develops proposed recommendations. Other workgroups were: Programs, Products, and Services, led by Elizabeth Goldberg; Networking, Automation, and Technology, led by Edith Hesse; and Education and Training, led by Maria Porta.



photo: J. Swab

The workshop facilitator and group leaders work on an outline of the first day's group results in preparation for the second day's sessions. (L-R) Elizabeth Goldberg, Maria Porta, Jane Kinney Meyers, Idalia Acosta, and Edith Hesse.

- Pursue donor support in order to exploit the use of optical digital technology, especially CD-ROM, for database and full-text sharing and also in the development of expert systems, image transmission, and the production of value-added products. Explore the feasibility of establishing a regional facility for CD-ROM mastering and for distribution of databases produced in the region.
- Identify software packages that could be made available on different platforms for the integrated management of libraries. The Micro CDS/ISIS model can be followed in the areas of promotion, distribution, user groups, and training.
- Strengthen telecommunications capabilities in the agricultural sector. Agricultural institutions, and specifically their libraries and information units, should be connected to and make their services available through the Internet. Initially, this will involve carrying out a telecommunications needs assessment. Donor support will be required to explore use of the Internet for cooperative document delivery and

input of bibliographic records to international databases.

- Encourage national and regional programs to carry out joint initiatives with international or developed country information systems for producing technological products. Promote the organization of user groups on electronic bulletin boards and listservs to facilitate communications.

■ Programs, Products, and Services

Strategy: Improve the use and accessibility of agricultural information for the diverse stakeholders and decision-makers, through coordination and resource sharing among all information providers, ranging from smaller libraries to large regional information systems.

Recommendations:

- Produce and enhance databases for national, regional, and international distribution and commercialization. Principle activities would include: collection and analysis of conventional and non-conventional literature; development of standardized

bibliographic, referential, and research-in-progress databases; development of compact disks to make agricultural information more readily available; and organization of national collective catalogs as a starting point for cooperation in journal acquisition.

- Pursue strategies that facilitate access to primary documents required by users including: analysis of options for acquisition of information, such as full-text electronic libraries on CD-ROM, electronic transmission of documents, and depository collections; payment options such as effective coupon systems and credit card purchases; projects that emphasize the collection of grey literature; and increased efforts to assure that local bibliographic materials are included in international databases.
- Enhance information diffusion by developing communication mechanisms to improve the understanding and use of information. Principal actions in this area would include: identification of users and their needs, in order to satisfy the demand for products and services; development of a program of commercialization of products and services; development of user-friendly query systems for direct and remote access to basic information as well as electronic bulletin boards and listservs for the use of information systems and services; and establishment of a clearinghouse facility for translation, diffusion, and possible commercialization of documents and training materials.

The formation of a task force also is recommended to identify and analyze new models for information exchange among and between researchers, extensionists, farmers, and other key agricultural stakeholders. This task force could focus on developments in such specific areas as documentation of farmer-generated or indigenous information and innovations; telecommunication systems for rural areas; and methods of dealing with proprietary and confidential

information.

- Expand and strengthen library and management services through solidifying present structures and through innovative and collaborative actions. Establish a regional cooperative program for collection and acquisitions including cooperative indexing and cataloging. Encourage the development of agricultural libraries in private institutions linked to the public sector, to encourage the mutually beneficial sharing of resources.

Conclusion

The collective knowledge and experience of leaders of the Inter-American information community, as well as that of international specialists, served as the foundation for establishing priority actions. It is intended that these recommendations will be the basis for collaborative project development that will merit donor attention and help improve national systems, and enhance regional and international cooperation.

References

*This article is based on the following collection of documents developed as part of the Workshop initiative:

Proposal: Inter-American Planning Workshop for Information Transfer and Networking, Maria G. Pisa and Jane Kinney Meyers, 1992.

Regional Plan for Inter-American Agricultural Information Infrastructure Development: A Formula for Information Transfer and Networking, Jane Kinney Meyers, updated 4/23/92.

Regional Plan for the Establishment of an Inter-American Agricultural Information Network: Report of the Inter-American Planning Workshop for Information Transfer and Networking, Carmen Siri, 1994.



photo: J. Swab

Susan Fugate (right) leads workshop participants on a tour of the National Agricultural Library; here they are in the Reference (Main) Reading Room.

**Inter-American Planning Workshop
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January 24-28, 1994**

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photo: J. Swab

Mike Thompson (seated, right) demonstrates to workshop participants the OCLC interlibrary loan system to generate and receive requests for documents.

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John Coffey (seated, left) demonstrates ARIEL, the document imaging system used by NAL's Document Delivery Services Branch to receive documents transmitted over the Internet. Beginning in October, NAL will also send documents.

photo: J. Swab

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photo: J. Swab

(L-R) Maria Pisa, organizer of the workshop, Joseph Howard, NAL Director (who retired a few days after the workshop), and Benita Weber Vassallo of Inter-American Development Bank, a co-host of the workshop.

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photo: J. Swab

Some of the workshop participants in the conference room at the Inter-American Development Bank. Sessions sited at the bank made use of the bank's capability to provide simultaneous translation to all participants in their language of choice. Translators are located in the studio behind the glass panel on the right of the photograph.



photo: J. Swab

Ghislaine Poitevien, Executive Secretary of AIBDA, presents a gift on behalf of the organization to Joseph Howard at his retirement reception, which occurred on an evening of the workshop.

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The following report is based on a site visit by Pamela André and Keith Russell to Montpellier, France in September 1993. The report was submitted to Dr. Lloyd Knutson, Director of USDA's European Biological Control Laboratory. Christine Silvy, Librarian, visited NAL in March 1994, and a brief account of the visit follows this report. NAL staff will again visit Montpellier in the Fall of 1994.

An Assessment of the Joint Library/ Documentation Center Project ARS European Biological Control Laboratory Montpellier, France December 1993

by Pamela Q. J. André and
Keith W. Russell
National Agricultural Library

I. Introduction/Background

The USDA European Biological Control Laboratory, under the direction of Dr. Lloyd Knutson, is in the process of building a new laboratory facility at the Baillarguet International Campus for Biological Control near Montpellier, France. The first major research laboratories on the campus will be French (sponsored by INRA—Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique), Australian (sponsored by CSIRO—Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization), and U.S. (sponsored by USDA—U.S. Department of Agriculture).

The concept of a single shared library/documentation center serving these three laboratories has been discussed as part of overall facilities planning for the Baillarguet Campus. To assist in the planning process, Dr. Knutson invited Pamela Q. J. André and Keith W. Russell, Associate Directors at the National Agricultural Library, to Montpellier in September 1993 to provide consultation for the library/documentation center planning activity.

A very intensive two-day meeting included an orientation to the European Biological Control Laboratory, a review of its library resources, and sessions with research scientists to determine their information needs. This was followed by visits to other library facilities in the area including CSIRO, the Scientific Library for the Bibliothèque Interuniversitaire de Montpellier,

the Documentation Center for ORSTOM (Institut Français de Recherche Scientifique pour le Développement en Coopération), and the Library and Documentation Center for CRIAD/CIDARC (Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement/Centre d'Information et de Documentation en Agronomie des Régions Chaudes). In addition to these orientation sessions, there were meetings with the Documentation Committee of the International Campus for Biological Control at Baillarguet, and with representatives of CILBA (Complexe International de Lutte Biologique Agropolis) and Agropolis (the research and higher education complex related to agronomy and food).

II. Observations

The library/documentation center on the Baillarguet Campus would be a common facility shared by INRA, CSIRO, and USDA researchers and staff. The center would be part of one or more common services buildings on the campus; other common services include a dining hall and kitchen facility, a conference room, and guard/security services. All three laboratories would contribute resources to create and operate the library/documentation center and to support other common services.

At the time of our visit, the CSIRO laboratory had opened on the campus, but other laboratories and the common services building(s) were still in the planning stages. Planning for the library/documentation center was in its early stages, and INRA had identified a librarian to help develop and operate it. Informational materials from

INRA, CSIRO, and USDA would form the beginning of the collection. CSIRO materials were already on campus; INRA materials on biological control would soon be moved from Paris to Baillarguet; and USDA materials were at the temporary EBCL facilities in Montpellier.

A Documentation Committee had been formed to begin planning the joint library/documentation center, and work was underway to survey research and administrative staff concerning the collections and services needed to support their work. The Documentation Committee includes representatives from the three laboratories, and from other research and information organizations in the Montpellier area. During our visit, the third meeting of this group was held. A smaller working group was appointed to begin more detailed planning for the library/documentation center.

There is a strong commitment to research, higher education, and library cooperation in the Montpellier region, and the formation of Agropolis and CILBA in recent years has facilitated collaborative ventures. Although there are many scientific libraries and documentation centers in the Montpellier region, many basic information resources needed for research on biological control are not available locally. Part of this is due to the range of materials needed (on such topics as natural history, ecology, taxonomy, geographical distribution, life cycles, and pathology), and because much of the information needed comes from older literature. Part of the problem is related to incomplete journal runs, lost and missing materials, and simple access

problems where libraries and documentation centers may have limited hours or restrictive borrowing policies.

Consequently, biological control researchers must rely on a network of libraries and documentation centers outside the region. This network includes information sources in France, Australia, and the U.S. Many informational needs are already met by the U.S. National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, Maryland; the CSIRO library in Canberra, Australia; and the network of INRA libraries in France. It is apparent that each institution is willing to continue current services to biological control researchers at Baillarguet, and to provide additional support as the joint library/documentation center is developed. Additional information resources are provided by other libraries and documentation centers throughout the world via established resource sharing agreements and procedures.

Based on the meeting with librarians and scientists, several desirable features of the new facility were identified. Our collective listing of those features follows on pages 22-23. But with limited resources for development of the joint library/documentation center, the challenge will be to create a system that meets the information needs of researchers and staff in a reasonable period of time at reasonable cost—a first-rate operation with ready access to needed information wherever it is located. Many questions are being addressed in the planning process. What, for example, is the nature of the core collection that will be on site at the common facility? What access will there be to personal information materials (such as reprint files) in the labs? What steps can be taken to simplify and speed up access to information materials available elsewhere, whether in the region or internationally? How formal do some of these agreements need to be? What will be the role of the Internet and other electronic networks? How can information technology facilitate research activities on the campus?

Obviously, the first priority of the library will be to serve the information needs of researchers and staff of the three laboratories. However, discus-



photo: K. Russell

Lloyd Knutson and Pamela André before a sculpture symbolizing the reinvigoration of French wine stock (old woman) by American wine stock (young woman), at the agricultural college in Montpellier.

sions have already begun to focus on future, broader responsibilities of the library/documentation center for sharing biological control scholarship with the rest of the world. This topic will need to be addressed in an access policy that recognizes the competing demands for serving staff and serving others (including students in the Montpellier area).

Because of the unique nature of the Baillarguet International Campus for Biological Control, it should be able to attract special funding for its research programs and for its library/documentation center. Considerable resources already exist within INRA, CSIRO, and USDA, and mechanisms to provide informational support are in place and operational. Planners of the library/documentation center are con-

sidering the elements of, and the key individuals and organizations for, a program for obtaining additional resources. Planning that is already underway will produce a vision for the library/documentation center that can be instrumental in attracting additional resources.

III. Conclusions

The concept of a single common use library and documentation facility to support the information needs of all biological control researchers at the Baillarguet Campus is an excellent one. It is particularly appropriate at this time when limited financial resources are available and the volume of scientific information is growing dramatically. Given these conditions, the best way to ensure effective access to information resources is through cooperation and resource sharing. This is the model currently in use in the major research universities in the U.S.

The concept of a shared facility has been given additional weight through the cooperation already established among the various libraries and documentation centers located in the Montpellier area. Expanding this local cooperation to the national level will provide a unique opportunity for resource sharing. The National Agricultural Library, as the premier resource for agricultural information for the United States, is committed to playing a key role in the development and operation of a shared library/documentation center.

IV. Recommendations

As a result of our visit, we recommend the following:

A. Statement of cooperation. Develop a statement of cooperation to be signed by all partners. This statement would formalize the existing spirit of cooperation in support of the ongoing information needs of the researchers at the Baillarguet Campus; would ensure ongoing administrative support for the joint library/documentation center and for regional resource sharing; and would facilitate additional fundraising activities by demonstrating

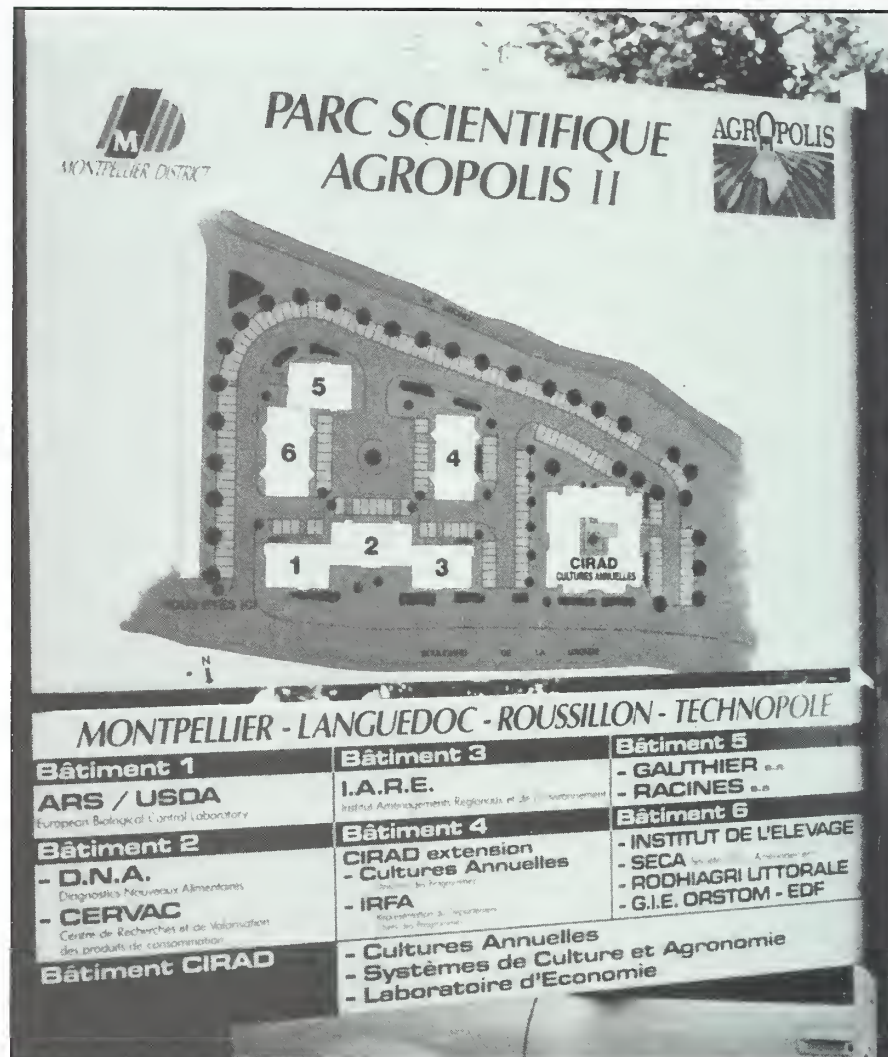


photo: K. Russell

Sign showing the eventual location of the cooperating research organizations at the joint research center, Agropolis, near Montpellier, France. Note the American site – ARS/USDA.

the commitment of participating institutions.

B. Electronic linkages. Establish electronic linkages for the library/documentation center and the research laboratories by installing a local area network for all facilities on the Baillarguet Campus. Establish an Internet node to ensure access to electronic information resources internationally.

C. Library collections. Initiate a joint activity to outline the library collections. We recommend a small reference collection onsite, including print and CD-ROM materials with extensive electronic access to remote databases

that contain bibliographic, numeric, and textual information.

D. Acquisitions. Pursue the acquisition of information materials for the library/documentation center through the Federal Library Information Center Committee's (FLICC) FEDLINK program. FEDLINK is the library network and cooperative that procures library-related services for more than 700 Federal libraries from hundreds of vendors. It expedites contracts for acquisitions, database, and cataloging services, often at discount rates. The European Biological Control Laboratory and the National Agricultural Library can help facilitate this process.

FEDLINK is headquartered at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540-5100.

E. NAL liaison. Establish a formal liaison with NAL for reference, database, current awareness, and document delivery services. Cooperative processing of informational materials can also be discussed. As part of this effort, we invite Mrs. Christine Silvy, the INRA librarian assigned to develop and open the joint library/documentation center, to visit NAL at her earliest convenience to discuss ideas for developing the library/documentation center, and to explore further the support NAL can provide for the effort.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Q. J. André, Associate Director for Automation

Keith W. Russell, Associate Director for Public Services

List of Desirable Features for the Joint Library/Documentation Center

The following features were identified as desirable for the joint library/documentation center. Research scientists and other partners in the joint project participated in the discussions from which this list was derived. This list is not complete, and is not in any particular order.

1. Combined collections and joint subscriptions, and a core collection of complete runs of up to 50 journals. Subjects covered would include biological control, ecology, floras, geographic distribution, pathology, etc. A significant part of the collection may be older material, perhaps from the 1930s and 1940s.

2. Finding tools that identify what is in the collection, where it is, and, if an item is checked out, who has it.

3. Finding tools and other bibliographic means to identify other materials and where they may be obtained. One example would be an updated journal list for the Montpellier area.

4. Good document delivery services. Easy and rapid means for getting materials from other places, and elimination of obstacles to getting those materials. This might include increased use of networks, telefacsimile, shuttle and other delivery services, etc.

5. Internet and other means of electronic access to needed information, and to individuals and organizations that can help with information, reference, and database requests.

6. Extensive hours, perhaps 8am to midnight.

7. Good security for the collection.

8. A good photocopier and staff to operate and/or maintain it.

9. Reference services, with backup from NAL and other libraries and documentation centers.

10. Adequate, comfortable workspace for both users and staff of the library/documentation center.

11. Good reciprocal borrowing arrangements with other appropriate organizations.

12. A good cooperative collection development plan with relevant libraries and documentation centers in the region.

13. Lists of privately-owned/laboratory-owned reprints, journals, and books available on the campus but not part of the common collection, and a policy related to access to those materials by others.

14. Appropriate use of networks and information technology to support the research process.

15. Rapid and cost-effective means for acquiring and processing information materials for the library/documentation center.



photo: J. Swab

Christine Silvy

Silvy Heads Joint Library at Montpellier; Visits NAL

Christine Silvy, a documentalist with the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA) in Montpellier, France, visited the National Agricultural Library and the Agricultural Research Service the week of March 26 to April 3, 1994. NAL staff also arranged visits to the library's D.C. Reference Center, and sight-seeing highlights of the D.C. area.

At the time of the visit, Silvy was coordinating the planning for the Joint Library/Documentation Center that serves French, Australian, and USDA ARS scientists doing research on biological control at a new facility near Montpellier—the Baillarguet International Campus for Biological Control, which also includes facilities for other types of international research.

During her stay in Beltsville, Silvy explored ideas and options for providing first-class information services from a modest facility, utilizing international document delivery sources, networking, and the Internet. She and

Cochran Fellowship Program

NAL staff also worked on special ways the National Agricultural Library can support the activities of the new collaborative research center.

At ARS, Silvy met with Dr. Richard S. Soper, Assistant Administrator of ARS, Office of International Research Programs, and with Dr. Jack R. Coul-

son, Insect Biocontrol Laboratory, and others.

NAL staff have been working closely with Dr. Lloyd Knutson, Director of the European Biological Control Laboratory, an ARS facility in Montpellier. Last fall, Pamela André and Keith Russell consulted with Dr. Knutson, his

staff, and staff and documentalists from the French and Australian laboratories and other research and library installations in the Montpellier region concerning this project. The resulting biological control center will be a major international research center on the topic.

Cochran Fellowship Program

Since 1984, the United States Congress has made funds available for training agriculturalists from middle income countries and emerging democracies. Training opportunities are for senior and mid-level specialists and administrators concerned with agricultural trade, agribusiness development, management, policy, and marketing from the public and private sectors. All training occurs in the United States. The Cochran Fellowship Program is part of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Office of International Cooperation and Development (OICD), Food Industries Division (FID).

Program Objectives

The program objectives are to provide high quality training resulting in knowledge and skills that will:

- Assist eligible countries to develop agricultural systems necessary to meet the food needs of their domestic populations; and
- Strengthen and enhance trade linkages between eligible countries and agricultural interests in the United States.

Criteria for Country Eligibility

Countries that meet the following (summarized) requirements are eligible to participate in the program:

- Agricultural exports do not compete significantly with those of the U.S.
- Economy must exceed level required for bilateral foreign assis-

tance from the U.S.

- If never qualified for bilateral foreign assistance, technical assistance and training would provide mutual benefits to country and U.S.
- A country transforming its government from non-representative to representative democracy.
- Country has economic ties with U.S.

Countries Involved in 1993

Among countries involved in the Cochran program in 1993 were: Algeria, China (Guangdong Province), Mexico, Cote d'Ivoire, Malaysia, Venezuela, Singapore, Trinidad/Tobago, Turkey, Hong Kong, Barbados/West Indies, Poland, South Korea, Colombia, Hungary, Taiwan, Panama, Bulgaria, Thailand, Czech Republic, and Slovakia.

Training Focus

The Cochran Fellowship Program offers short term training opportunities, most ranging from 2 to 12 weeks. Participants meet with professionals in their fields, take part in field observations and industry visits, experience on-the-job training, attend university courses and seminars, or participate in a combination of these. Training which enhances a country's ability to export goods in competition with the U.S. is not approved. The program works with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and trade and marketing associations to identify mutual interests with the recipient countries.

Program Design

Each training program reflects a philosophy that training should provide participants with sound technical knowledge and the opportunity to test and practice new skills and knowledge in practical situations. Therefore, most programs offer a mixture of technical instruction, practical field observations, and "hands-on" experience. Programs are specially designed in accordance with the training objectives discussed during interviews with the candidates and the recommendations of the FAS officer.

Applicant Eligibility

The Cochran Program is open to the staff of agribusinesses, government departments, universities, and other agricultural organizations. In their own countries, applicants may be managers, technicians, scientists, professors, administrators, and/or policy makers. Participants must be in good health and proficient in oral and written English. The program does not provide funds for international travel.

NAL Participation in the Cochran Program

In 1993 NAL hosted two Cochran Fellows and provided training in the Fall. The library expects to continue to host participants, and one has been selected for 1994. The library provides training in all aspects of its programs, in both traditional library operations and in new technologies and information media. These training opportunities are tailored to the needs of the fellows while providing a basis for more effective cooperation between NAL

Cochran Fellowship Program

and the fellows' home institutions.

The following articles on Dr. Jana Skládalová of the Czech Republic and Dr. Andrejka Svorenová of the Slovak Republic, who were the 1993 fellows at NAL, discuss their backgrounds and libraries.

Contacts for Further Information

Cochran Fellowship Program
USDA/OICD/FAS
14th and Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250
Telephone: (202) 690-0032

Fax: (202) 690-0349

Telex: 7401494 MICP UC

For more information about NAL participation in the Cochran Fellowship Program, contact:

Maria Pisa

Associate Director for

Policy and Planning

*National Agricultural Library,
Room 200*

*10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2351*

Telephone: (301) 504-6780

TDD/TTY: (301) 504-6856

Fax: (301) 504-7042

Internet: mpisa@nahusda.gov

Skládalová Was A 1993 NAL Cochran Fellow

Dr. Jana Skládalová, Chief Librarian at the Central Food Library, Prague, Czech Republic, was one of 2 Cochran Fellows at the National Agricultural Library from early October through mid December 1993. The other Cochran Fellow was Andrejka Svorenová of Slovakia. (See the article on Svorenová following this one.) Skládalová and Svorenová shared most of the training experiences and site visits, except for Skládalová's visit to Kansas, and Svorenová's visit to New York.

In the training program at NAL, both Cochran Fellows met with the heads of all of NAL's branches and the coordinators of all of the library's information centers, and received training in operations, procedures, use of hardware and software, and techniques for obtaining information and providing services according to their needs.

As part of the program, Skládalová also went to Kansas to visit Kansas State University and its Farrell Library and to the American Institute of Baking, to see its operations, equipment, and library. In Kansas, Skládalová also visited the USDA research and experiment stations at Manhattan and Kansas City to gather information officially for her institute. She particularly desired information on new grain testing equipment, which by image analysis simultaneously measures moisture, weight, size, grinding characteristics, and energy necessary to grind (as opposed to older methods which measured each of these separately). Among the Kansas City visits was one to the Board of Trade, where she said she was "very surprised at the activity with people shouting and moving about rapidly and vigorously." Skládalová also visited the Sosland Publishing Company in Kansas City.

Other site visits, again by both Cochran Fellows, included Auburn University and Tuskegee University in conjunction with the USAIN National



Happy Holidays!
William Donald Schaefer
Governor

photo: Maryland Governor's Mansion

1993 Cochran fellows visit with Maryland Governor William Donald Schaefer (front left). Others (from right) are Maria Pisa, Andrejka Svorenová, Jana Skládalová, and Charles Shafer (Pisa's husband). (There are 2 members of the governor's staff behind.)



photo: J. Swab

Jana Skládalová

Conference at Auburn. Locally in the Washington/Baltimore metropolitan area, they visited the Library of Congress, National Library of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, and the University of Maryland. A major part of the local visit also included the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center of ARS, including the farms and orchards, and various agriculture and food institutes.

At NAL Skládalová assisted technical services staff with organization and processing of Czech materials, and did the same for Kansas State University by FAX. She also did some translating for NAL and reviewed the exchange of journals. She indicated that she found NAL's E-mail system very interesting, and was pleased to learn to use Windows. She also mentioned that she found the services and materials produced by the Food and Nutrition Information Center of special interest. Concerning other impressions, she said, "I admire the nature here in the states," and indicated that she enjoyed her travels here very much and that all of the people were nice and helpful. She also stated that her visit was especially beneficial because it is "important that we have these contacts."

Skládalová graduated from the Technical University, Prague, Faculty

of Food Technology. There she also completed post-graduate studies, focusing on Cereal Science and Technology, in which she earned her Ph.D. For more than 20 years she worked at the Flour-milling and Baking Research Institute in Prague, the first 11 years in a research branch and the remaining years as head of the institute's information branch. Beginning in 1991 Skládalová was employed in the Food Information Center, and since June 1992 as head of the Central Food Library. Besides supervision of library activities, Skládalová coordinates with foreign partners including exchange of materials and international cooperation in the field of cereal science and technology.

In January 1993 following the political and economic changes in the country—the principal one being the split of Czechoslovakia into two independent states, the Czech Republic and Slovakia—food information and agricultural information merged into one Institute of Agricultural and Food Information. The Central Food Library has over 25,000 volumes of books, 37,000 volumes of journals, and in 1993 subscribed to 427 journal titles. The library has a staff of 8 persons. The library is affiliated with UNESCO for book cataloging, etc. Users include the Ministry of Agriculture; university, college, and high school faculty members and students; researchers; people from industry; and businessmen.

In addition to the above, Skládalová has a distinguished record of professional activity including: authoring or co-authoring 77 publications (including 4 abroad); speaking at conferences, 16 altogether (4 abroad). She also represented her library at the third U.S./Central and Eastern European Agricultural Library Roundtable in Warsaw, Poland, in September 1993.

Upon return to Prague, Skládalová expected to use her experiences in the United States to improve her library's collections, operate the library more efficiently, and prepare it to join and develop CASLIN (the Czech and Slovak Library Information Network) and to join other international information networks. Her colleagues also ex-

pected to derive benefits for the Central Agricultural and Forestry Library and the National Medical Library.

—Joseph N. Swab

Svorenová Visits NAL as 1993 Cochran Fellow

In early October 1993, Dr. Andrejka Svorenová returned to the National Agricultural Library for a two-month visit as a Cochran Fellow. She had previously visited NAL as the representative of the library, which she heads, at the Institute of Scientific and Technical Information for Agriculture, Nitra, Slovakia, during the first U.S./Central European Agricultural Library Roundtable held at Beltsville, Maryland, in November 1991. Subsequently, she strengthened her relationships and those of her library with NAL and its staff at roundtable conferences in Budapest in October 1992, and Warsaw in September 1993. Her participation in the Cochran Fellowship Program was, therefore, an extension of the previous experiences.

At NAL since her visit coincided with that of Jana Skládalová, Svorenová shared training and professional experiences in NAL's branches and information centers, at USDA's Agricultural Research Service facilities, at Washington/Baltimore area libraries and universities, and at USAIN activities at Auburn and Tuskegee Universities.

While Skládalová was in Kansas, Svorenová made a visit to Ithaca, New York, to visit Cornell University and all of its library branches. At the Mann Library she was particularly interested in the Core Literature Project and its CD-ROM products, and other library projects.

Svorenová said that she found all of the opportunities she had here in the United States to be very interesting, and that "everything is applicable in



photo: J. Swab

Andrejka Svorenová

Slovakia."

Svorenová became the Chief of the Library at the Institute of Scientific and Technical Information for Agriculture (ISTIA, i.e., ÚVTIP) in 1991. Prior to assuming this position she worked as an independent scientific researcher at the University of Agriculture in Nitra from 1975 to 1990, and as the library chief at the Archeological Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Nitra from 1969 to 1971. Dr. Svorenová studied library and information science at Komensky University in Bratislava.

The Division of Information Services and Library at ISTIA under Svorenová's supervision provides the following services: reference information, library and interlibrary loans, periodicals circulation, photocopying, searches from databases (World List of Agricultural Serials, etc. on CD-ROM), English and German translations and interpreting, elaboration of analytico-synthetical studies, library consulting and advisory services, and services of the FAO Depository Library. In addition at Nitra, ISTIA has a Division of Information Technologies and Promotion which provides the following services: marketing, consulting, and installation of software packages for management of agricultural production; technical

support of information activities and systems; and specialized information services using modern information technologies.

Two other divisions of ISTIA are located at Bratislava. The AGRIS National Centre and Division of Information Technologies is the Slovak participating center for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Every year the Slovak AGRIS Center contributes more than 700 bibliographic records on agricultural literature published in the Slovak Republic. Services include: consulting services in database selection and search request formulation; searches from databases such as AGRIS, AGRICOLA, CAB Abstracts, CRIS/ICAR (AGRISEARCH), and PEST-

BANK (on CD-ROM and online); searches from other home and foreign databases; translation of retrieved records, as well as agricultural and other texts from/into foreign languages; interpreting in English.

The other ISTIA division in Bratislava is the NOI Publishers, which provides printing services, including the printing of promotional materials, journals, and books, and bookbinding, and publishing services, including publishing journals (*Naturalium*; *Snail Breeding*; *Agriculture*; *Information of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic*; and *Farmer*) and books (editing, graphical design, and computerized composition).

— Joseph N. Swab

NAL Aids Egypt in Establishing an ENAL: A Review

World relations are getting a boost from international collaboration in a rather unusual arena, library science, specifically agricultural library science. The National Agricultural Library of the United States is assisting the Government of Egypt in establishing an Egyptian National Agricultural Library (ENAL) in Cairo.

Since about 1987, NAL has been providing Egypt with technical assistance and staff training as the Egyptian Government moves ahead in developing ENAL.

"Over the years we have hosted a number of Egyptian librarians and agricultural specialists from the ENAL staff," said NAL Acting Director Pamela André. "They come to NAL to observe our operations, discuss and study library management techniques with our managers, and review our collection so they can decide on the agricultural materials to acquire for their own library. They consider us the best agricultural library in the world, and they want to learn from the best."

André, in her former NAL capacity as Associate Director for Automation, has been a leader in NAL's assistance to the Egyptians.

"With funding from the Agency for International Development and the USDA Office of International Cooperation and Development, I travelled to Cairo twice, in 1990 and 1994," André said. Other NAL staff, including former NAL Director Joseph Howard, also visited Egypt regarding the ENAL. "We went to meet with members of the Egyptian Agriculture Ministry and the staff they have selected for their agricultural library. Together we discussed and laid out the hundreds of steps that need to be taken in order to establish a major research library. NAL has provided guidance from the very beginning."

The beginning was in 1987 when a two-person contingent from the "Library and Information Systems Working Group" of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture visited NAL for two days in October. While at the library, they were given demonstrations of NAL library technology, and they began the process of gathering information to use in developing an Egyptian National Agricultural Library.

"Joe Howard, NAL's director at that time [Howard retired in January 1994], was the impetus behind our assistance to the Egyptians," André said. "Under his leadership, NAL staff helped the Egyptians identify funding sources for their library and begin the seemingly overwhelming task of pulling together their own agricultural library."

Since then, André said that there have been a steady stream of Egyptian librarians, agriculture specialists, and managers to NAL learning "as much as they can about what is required to manage a large research library. They have been eager and willing students."

André said the instruction they received has been as varied as the librarian profession has become.

"We've given them training in providing reference services to their clients, in document delivery, microcomputer use, cataloging, in producing CD-ROMs (compact disks) of agricultural materials and in selecting and acquiring a basic collection," André said.

An intensive review of NAL's collection by four of the Egyptians gave them the basis for their own collection when they identified 1,000 agricultural journals and about 8,000 monographs they then were able to acquire.

Other training included instruction in developing statistics, scheduling library staff, and using NAL's AGRICOLA bibliographic database and a USDA system that tracks international agricultural research.

One group travelled to Blacksburg, Virginia, to the headquarters of VTLS, Inc., for instruction on computer hardware and software. They also discussed with the VTLS staff developing an integrated library system similar to one NAL developed to manage its own collection of over 2 million volumes and tens of thousands of periodicals.

NAL arranged for another group of Egyptian visitors to travel to the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, in Princess Anne County, Maryland, to view the operations of that university's Frederick Douglas Library and meet with that library's staff.

There has also been some time for a little sightseeing. "For one of our groups we planned a side trip to the seaside resort of Ocean City, Maryland," André said, "and while there, introduced our Egyptian friends to the joys of Maryland crabcakes at a seafood restaurant in the area."

And what are the Egyptians' impressions of NAL and the area?

"Nearly all are amazed at the volume and scope of NAL's operations and collection," André said. "And most comment on the beauty of the

Maryland countryside. They are particularly impressed with the large number of trees and forests in the state. This is understandable, considering Egypt's arid, desert environment."

The length of time the various groups have spent at NAL range from several days to as much as six weeks.

"The Egyptians plan to have a staff of about 80 people in their library," André said. "To date we've had around 25 of those at NAL for training."

André said that NAL will be hosting more groups in the next several months and she expects that once the Egyptian Government opens their library, the majority of the staff will have received at least some NAL training.

"This has been a remarkable experience for both NAL and the Egyptians," André said. "And through it we have developed bonds that will last far into the future. Both libraries, and both countries, stand to benefit from the exchange of agricultural and library knowledge."

The Egyptian Government is planning to open their National Agricultural Library in 1995.

(Contributing to the preceding article were: Brian Norris, Ellen Nollman, Ellen Pletsch, Deborah Richardson, and Joseph Swab.)

ENAL Staff Complete Acquisitions Work for FY 1994

by Karl E. Debus
Acquisitions & Serials Branch, NAL

One year of cooperative activity between acquisitions staff from the Egyptian National Agricultural Library (ENAL) and NAL has come to a fruitful end. The first part of the year's activity occurred in October and November of 1993, when four ENAL librarians received training in VTLS acquisitions and serials check-in, selected over 8,000 monographic and 1,000 serial titles for their collection, and met with monographic and serial



photo: J. Swab

Deborah Richardson (left), head of NAL's Educational Programs, bids farewell to Mrs. Wafaa Thabit, and Ms. Dalia Metawea, who were leaving NAL to return to Egypt.

vendors on the FEDLINK contract. The final stage of the year's activity occurred in August when Dr. Yousef Hamdi, Deputy Director of ENAL, Mrs. Wafaa Thabit, Head of Technical Services, and Ms. Dalia Metawea, Library Technician, returned to NAL to learn about FEDLINK procurement procedures, finalize their list of serial titles, and place their monographic orders for FY 1994 with the delegated FEDLINK vendors.

Mrs. Thabit and Ms. Metawea received training from Karl Debus, Head, Monographic Acquisitions and Fiscal Units, on a vendor developed electronic ordering package. Use of the electronic package allowed the ENAL staff easily to place most of the required orders with the chosen monographic vendors in a short period of time. Win Gelenter, Head, Serials Unit, assisted the ENAL librarians in making alterations to the original ENAL serial list. Dr. Hamdi, who was present for the first few days of cooperative work between ENAL and NAL, expressed an interest in replacing many paper versions of serials with their corresponding CD-ROM version. Gelenter, Thabit, and Metawea spent many hours changing the list to include the needed CD-ROM titles. Gelenter and Debus arranged meetings between the ENAL staff and monographic and serial vendors, so that complicated processing and shipping arrangements could be agreed upon. Ellen Pletsch, Collection Development Librarian at NAL, served as the liaison between FEDLINK, ENAL, and USAID and resolved many inter-departmental issues.

One of the goals of the ENAL project is to develop a "state of the art" electronic library for Egypt which other nations in the Middle East and Africa can emulate. The acquisitions aspect of this goal is well on its way to being realized, as the ENAL librarians have mastered electronic ordering procedures and are sensitive to the need to incorporate electronic titles in their collection. ENAL staff will receive further training on electronic ordering and claiming procedures in October when representatives from the selected

vendors will visit the ENAL facilities in Cairo. The VTLS system, when it is implemented, will further ENAL's ability to work in a truly electronic environment.

In the next few weeks ENAL staff will begin receiving the books and journals which will make their library a superior research facility for agriculture and agriculturally-related sciences in Africa and the Middle East.

ATMIC Reference Materials Support International Activities

Among the many products and services of the National Agricultural Library supporting international initiatives, those of NAL's Agricultural Trade and Marketing Information Center (ATMIC) are particularly noteworthy. The center, coordinated by Mary Lassanyi, provides specialized reference and information services in a wide range of subjects related to agricultural trade and marketing. Among these are: trade policies, barriers, negotiations, agreements and treaties; world markets, exporting food and other farm products, and all aspects of international promotion and development of agricultural trade and marketing. Topics closely tied to these subjects, such as the economics of urbanization and urban policies in developing countries are also included.

To support these services, ATMIC produces a number of publications, including bibliographies and special reference briefs, fact sheets, and a quarterly newsletter, *Vignettes*. The newsletter focuses on activities, upcoming events, new technologies, resources, and services of interest to the agricultural trade and marketing community.

The bibliographies and special ref-

erence briefs cover major subjects of current interest in USDA and the agricultural community. Three of these are listed below, with excerpts from Mary Lassanyi's introductions to the reference briefs.

—Joseph N. Swab

"South America's Economic Development and Emerging Markets," *Special Reference Brief, SRB 94-12*. Prepared by Mary E. Lassanyi, Agricultural Trade and Marketing Information Center. Beltsville, MD: National Agricultural Library, August 1994. 57 pp.

In the 1980's many South American countries changed from an absolute military power to a more democratic civilian government, this change helped to ease trade negotiations with other countries. Since 1988, South America is experiencing considerable economic integration, political cooperation, enhancement of regional commerce, and interdependent trade ties. The creation of organizations such as Mercado Comun del Sur (MERCOSUR) (Common Market of the South), and the Andean Group, further foster and strengthen South America's economic growth and competitiveness in world trade.

Members of MERCOSUR consist of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. The presidents of these respective countries agreed to set common tariffs for many goods imported from other countries. The Andean Group, consists of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela. Their responsibility is to concentrate on the economic cooperation within their respective regions.

Many South American countries import goods they cannot produce competitively and export products that they can produce with a competitive gain.

This Special Reference Brief covers the following South American countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Mexico is excluded from this publication, since the signing of the North

American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) makes Mexico's economic situation singular.

This publication covers selected materials from 1986 to the present with emphasis on publications containing information on economic growth, free market enterprise, market opportunities, and international trade. Thus the reader who wishes current information can pursue the subject in greater depth.

A short brief on each South American country is provided. Topics of importance, such as the "Asuncion Treaty" and the creation of MERCOSUR, are noted in the briefs. Names, addresses of contacts, trade organizations, trade fairs, were verified at the time of data gathering, September, 1993-May, 1994.

"Central and Eastern Europe: Going Global," *Special Reference Brief*, 93-10. Prepared by Mary E. Lassanyi, Agricultural Trade and Marketing Information Center. Beltsville, MD: National Agricultural Library, August 1993. 95 pp.

The 1989/1990 events in Eastern Europe depicted unprecedented political and economic reforms, such as: breaking ground with new political reforms, moving from a planned economy to free market economies, and the German reunification which took place on October 3, 1990.

The major problems facing these countries as they make the transition to free market economies are declining gross national products, obsolete industrial bases, large foreign debts which limit their ability to settle domestic economic problems, and overdependence on the former USSR.

In 1989, the Support for East European Democracy (SEED) Act of 1989 was enacted "to promote political democracy and economic pluralism in Poland and Hungary by assisting those nations during a critical period of transition and abetting the development in those nations of private business sectors, labor market reforms, and democratic institutions; to establish, through these steps, the framework for

a composite program of support for East European Democracy."

The United States, the European Community, Japan, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, are assisting Eastern Europe. This assistance covers activities in economics, finance, agriculture, education, and the environment.

Experts agree that the success of foreign aid assistance and that of East European countries' transition towards pluralistic forms of government and decentralized market-based economies will depend on Eastern Europe's undertaking certain fundamental measures: reviving their private sectors, improving infrastructures, establishing financial markets, and reliance on market-based prices.

The growth of the private sector in Central, Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States (NIS) opened up numerous market opportunities. In addition to U.S. agricultural products, manufactured goods, advanced technology as exports, health care, telecommunications, environmental protection, computers, energy-saving equipment, and business management services offer much potential in these countries.

The evolving relationship between Central and Eastern European countries and the European Community (EC) may be of concern to U.S. exporters. Already, the EC has signed Association Agreements with several East European countries designed to implement a free trade area over a ten year period. Another concern: limited information is available pertaining to contacts, present laws for doing business in these countries, what companies one should deal with, future government policies, and how the economic reforms are succeeding, especially in regard to the Newly Independent States.

In the contacts section are listed U.S. and foreign government agencies, private trade organizations, information centers, who can offer information

and publications to expand exports to Central, Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States.

This Special Reference Brief covers the following Central and East European countries: Albania, Bulgaria, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Russia and the Newly Independent States, Yugoslavia, and the former republics of Yugoslavia. East Germany is excluded from this publication since the German reunification makes East Germany's economic and political situation unique.

This Special Reference Brief on Central and Eastern Europe covers selected materials from 1990 to the present with emphasis on publications containing information on joint ventures, business opportunities, marketing guidelines, and international trade, thus, the reader who wishes current information can pursue the subject in greater depth.

A short brief on each Central and East European country is provided. Topics of importance (such as the signing of the US-USSR Trade Agreement at the Summit Meeting in Washington, DC, June 1990), are noted in the briefs. Names, addresses of contacts, trade organizations and trade fairs were verified at the time of data updating, April-June 1993.

"Agriculture and Trade Policy in Latin America, January 1985-February 1994," *Quick Bibliography Series*, QB 94-11. Prepared by Mary E. Lassanyi, Agricultural Trade and Marketing Information Center. Beltsville, MD: National Agricultural Library, February 1994. 24 pp.

This bibliography contains 91 citations from AGRICOLA (*AGRICultural OnLine Access*), NAL's bibliographic database. Subjects covered are agricultural trade and policies, free trade, economic growth or development, government intervention, and trade practices, agreements, and barriers for Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, or Latin America in general.



Visitors



photo: J. Swab

Joseph Howard, President IAALD, Pamela André, Acting Director, NAL, Marie Josée Jehl, Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Co-operation, The Netherlands, and Keith Russell, Associate Director for Public Services, NAL, met to discuss a joint program of cooperation.



photo: J. Swab

Agchbazar Shiilegdamba, Head, National Information Center for Agricultural Sciences, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ulaan Baator, Mongolia, visited NAL seeking information on agricultural trade and marketing, the national dairy database, and to see demonstrations of a variety of other databases, CD-ROMs, and other technology applications.



photo: J. Swab

A group of eight visitors from the Forestry Group, led by Zhang Chunxiang, Programme Officer, Ministry of Forestry, People's Republic of China, visited NAL for a tour and demonstrations of databases and new technology applications. They were impressed with the *Plant-It!* CD-ROM. Verna Shen of NAL Cataloging (2nd from left) led the tour.

International Visitors



photo: J. Swab

Among NAL's international activities are orienting and training visitors from abroad and providing opportunities for cooperating on international projects. Here a group of representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China (MAPRC), part of a group of 31 guests of the White House Office of Science and Technology, visit NAL. They are joined by their NAL hosts for a group photo. Included in the group are Mr. Zhang Zhongwei, Vice Governor for Agriculture (VGA), Sichuan Province; Mr. Xiao Zuofu, VGA, Liaoning Province; Dr. Lu Liangshu, Professor, Former President, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences; Ms. Wang Shikun, Deputy Director General (DDG), General Office, MAPRC; Mr. Xue Liang, DDG, Planning Department, MAPRC; Mr. Yu Dahal, DDG, China Animal and Plant Quarantine, MAPRC; and Ms. Ke Keer, Interpreter, Department of International Cooperation, MAPRC. Others in the photo are Chinese Embassy and USDA staff and the following NAL Staff: Dr. Leslie Kulp (2nd from right); Verna Shen (4th from right, front), Alvetta Pindell (6th from right), and Robert Anderson (4th from left, behind). NAL staff provided a tour and overview of the library, demonstrations of databases and new technology, and a small reception.

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